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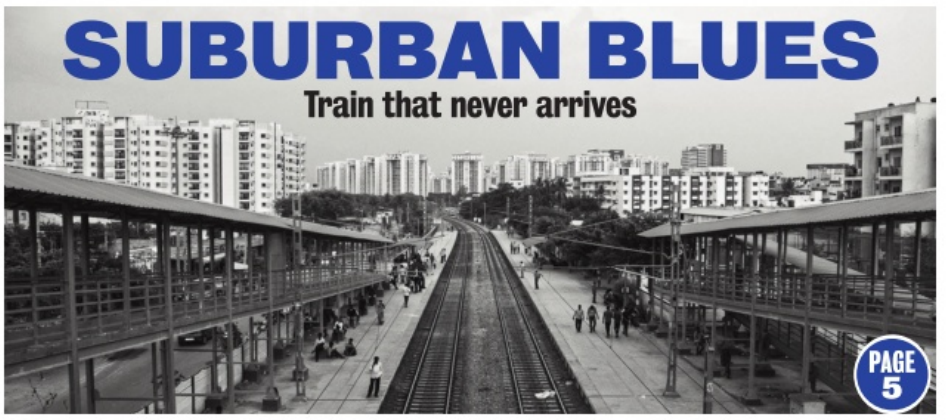
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 21 | Humidity 66% Scattered Thunderstorms Sensex 65,995 | Nifty 19,653 | Gold 56,898 | Silver 68,290 | Dollar 83.12 | Euro 88.12 | GBP 101.74

SAFETY REVIEW

Aftermath of a tragedy

PAGE 3



SUBURBAN BLUES

Train that never arrives

PAGE 5

If metro line constructed instead of 190 km-long tunnel road corridor proposed, emissions can be reduced significantly, IISc study says: at least by 7% in case of a 92.2 km stretch

THE PLIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

'Tender for mega project to be invited within 45 days'

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KAUSHIK JN

The 190 km-long tunnel road proposed will likely make Bengaluru's air too toxic to breathe by 2030, a simulation study conducted by researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has suggested.

The study that examined the impact of the four-lane tunnel road project on Bengaluru's air showed that by 2030, the road infrastructure will increase the carbon dioxide (CO_2) and particulate matter (PM) emissions by nearly 4% compared to business as usual (without tunnel road construction) scenario.

However, the analysis said that if a metro line is constructed along the same proposed corridor instead, emissions will be reduced by over 7%.

"We have conducted this simulation to understand how the tunnel road project impacts the city. As per our study, under the business-as-usual scenario, the total CO_2 emission by 2030 is expected to be 11.3 million tonnes per year. If the tunnel road is created, the CO_2 emission level is expected to touch 11.7 million tonnes per year. However, it is expected to drop to 10.5 million tonnes per year if a metro line is constructed instead of the proposed tunnel road," said professor Ashish Verma convenor, Sustainable Transportation Lab, Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

Similarly, while the PM emission by 2030 is expected to be 1,362 tonnes/year under the business-as-usual scenario, it is expected to reach 1,416 tonnes/year if the tunnel project gets the go-ahead.

This is because the proposed project will drastically increase distance travelled by vehicles

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

"Proposal is a presumption that road infrastructure is the solution to traffic issues... it will increase vehicle ownership, miles travelled by personal vehicles..." — Professor Ashish Verma, IISc

Rape cases spike

City records 20 cases of rape a month, 3-fold increase as compared to January 2023

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Bengaluru recorded more than 100 cases of rape in 2023. According to data gathered by the Karnataka state police, the city saw 111 rapes in just eight months.

The data revealed the state meantime witnessed 389 cases of rape — Bengaluru registered close to 28% of the total number of cases.

In January, Bengaluru recorded six rapes; the numbers continued to increase as the months went by. In the latest crime review of August, the city saw 20 cases a month - a three-fold increase as compared to the first month of 2023.

Meanwhile BM asked women in the city if they felt safe considering the rise in crime against them.

"There are times when I leave my office around 9 or 9:30 pm; it takes me around 30 minutes or more depending on the traffic to get back to my PG. Generally, when it's this late I keep myself aware of my surroundings and vigilant," said Supriya, a lawyer, who often travels for work.

Supriya added: "I go out at times and return around 12 or 12:30 pm, that's when it gets scary. There are no police patrols;

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Magical tales

Nrityakosh presents an oriental dance rendition of The Arabian Nights, featuring iconic tales like Aladdin, Ali Baba, and Sindbad. Explore the magical world of powerful djinns, enchanting princesses, and adventurous sailors.
Where: JSS Auditorium, Jayanagar
When: October 14, 4 pm & 7 pm

02 Folkloric fusion

Gigi Pada artists present "Naga Mandala," a dance adaptation of Girish Karnad's folkloric tale. It portrays the struggles of a newlywed woman in a chauvinistic rural setting. **Where: Medai- The stage; When: October 15**

03 Mystery drama

Unlock the world of mysteries and embrace your inner detective with 'Murder Mystery: The Wedding Bells' a play by Yours Truly Theatre. Join for an immersive theatre experience that ignites your curiosity and detective skills.
Where: Yours Truly Theatre; When: October 15

Batsman with taste

Rachin's grandpa tells BM about the Kiwi cricket sensation's love for dosas, his Bengaluru connection and more

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Fresh off his World Cup debut century, Kiwi opening batsman Rachin Ravindra has captured the attention of cricket enthusiasts in Namma Bengaluru, who are eager to learn more about his connections to the city. Rachin has been winning hearts with his stellar performance on the field, love for homemade dosa, and active participation in local cricket clubs.

Rachin's grandfather, Balakrishna Adiga, a former principal of Vijaya College, said, "We knew from his childhood that Rachin was here to make a big name in cricket. Since playing for the under-19 team for New Zealand, we knew that he was a promising cricketer as he has been a consistent performer. We were really happy that he made his World Cup debut in India, and the icing on the cake was scoring a century in the first match." Recalling Rachin's ancestry, Adiga said, "My grandson's cricket connection is attributed to his father. My son-in-law used to be an aspiring cricketer and played for his college SSMRV. After bagging a software engineer's job, he moved to NZ in 1997. Ravindra is a true inspiration, and he coached Rachin from a young age."

Regarding the origin of the name 'Rachin,' Adiga said his daughter and son-in-law were big fans of Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar, and hence, they coined a new name Rachin and named their son. "To give Rachin good practice, he was brought to Bengaluru every year, where he played with many clubs. Whenever he used to come to our home, he loved South Indian food, especially Udupi food. Whenever he came to our home, he insisted his granny make dosa. Two New Zealand matches are scheduled in Bengaluru, and he will be coming here. Due to security reasons, we may not be able to meet him, and he may not come here."

After his maiden century in the World Cup, Rachin said, "I was born in New Zealand, and my family is from India, but I completely see myself as a Kiwi and am very proud of my roots and ethnicity. It was nice to have my parents there watching; they flew over from New Zealand. It's cool to have that moment, and obviously, it's always nice coming to India," said the 23-year-old all-rounder.

In fact, during the previous World Cup final, when New Zealand dramatically lost to England, Rachin was actually in Bengaluru. Rachin Ravindra found the night of July 14, 2019, one of the longest and hardest to endure as he watched New Zealand's heartbreaking defeat to England in the ODI World Cup final while sitting in a Bengaluru pub. Ravindra, then all of 19, was on an annual trip to India with his father's cricket club, and the roller-coaster experience of watching the final is still etched in his memory. "Looking back on my Test debut, it was a special and emotional time. Being able to play in India, the fanfare around the game here, to experience that is pretty special. My parents come from Bangalore, and it is amazing to play a World Cup here. Experience of cricket tours to India with my dad will come in handy", the 23-year-old said recently in a press conference. Meanwhile, all eyes will be on Rachin on November 4 when New Zealand will take on Pakistan at Bengaluru, and it will be a true homecoming for New Zealand when he plays for his country of origin in front of his family members.

> **"Since playing for the under-19 team for NZ, we knew that he was a promising cricketer as he has been a consistent performer**
> – Balakrishna Adiga, Rachin's grandfather

In a TV interview, Rachin added, "I am hopeful for a lot of support for the Bengaluru match. I am planning to book more tickets for my extended family for the Bengaluru match even though I am not sure how many will turn up."

'13,000-odd cases of crime against women'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

occasionally I spot some goons on my way. I don't feel safe after I cross the military area near Ravi Tent bus stop as there is no one outside…"

Another resident, a content writer, said she doesn't trust the state machineries to protect her and can't rely on emergency services. "I would feel safe to go out if we had a better emergency response system. I don't think I have faith in our emergency services; I think that is what gives a woman strength, the assurance that if she goes out and something happens, she will be safe," she said. She said that public transport like the metro has a designated cop keeping vigil alongside guards at the coaches from 10 to 11pm; however when she steps out of the metro station it gets dark and scary.

"The BMTC recently introduced an app which has an SOS system, but it is too complicated for women to understand how it works. It can only help a certain section of people," she added.

The state recorded 4,255 cases of molestation this year alongside seven cases of gang rape — in all, 13,000-odd cases of crime against women.

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Rainy surprise
Umbrellas out as the city experiences unexpected showers

Swipe right: Will Gauri the giraffe find her partner?

Search is on to find a mate for 7-yr-old female giraffe at Bannerghatta zoo

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At Bannerghatta, the quest for a new giraffe has become more than just a safari spectacle—it's a heartwarming search for love. Meet Gauri, the single giraffe, who's been a resident here since her arrival from Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens in 2018.

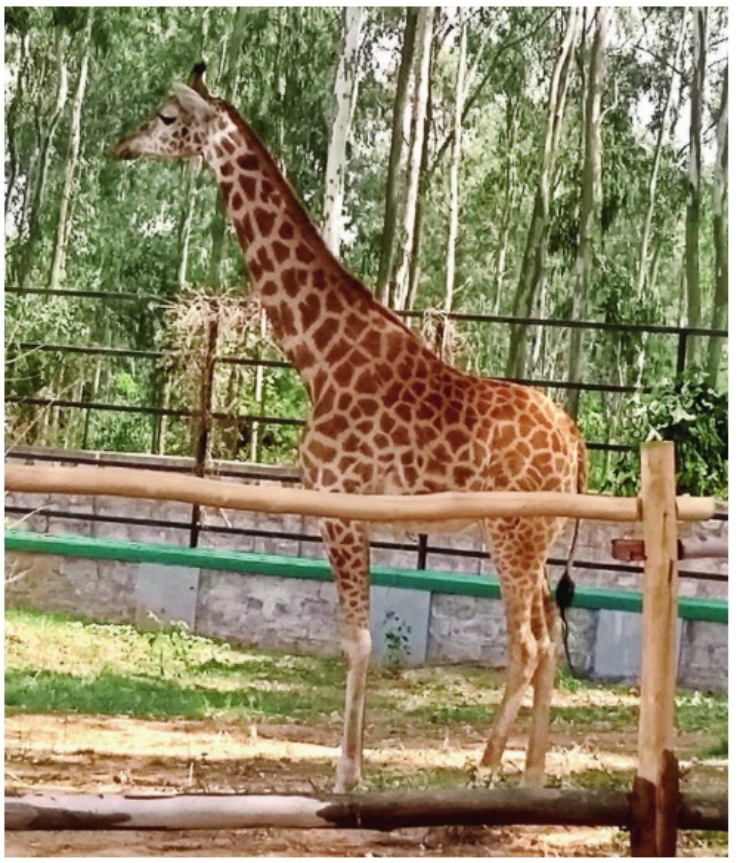
In an attempt to end Gauri's loneliness, Giraffe Yadunandan joined the scene in April 2020. Sadly, tragedy struck in 2021 when the male giraffe accidentally entered the treatment area and got his six-foot-long neck ensnared in rods. Despite best efforts by the staff, Yadunandan succumbed to asphyxiation.

His ossicones were entangled, and attempts to free them resulted in his neck twisting twice. In the midst of panic and vomiting, Yadunandan's heartbeat gradually slowed until he passed away.

Before his tragic departure, Yadunandan brought joy to the zoo, providing company to Gauri. The zoo staff fondly remembered the playful interactions between the two giraffes, sniffing and bonding instantly.

Now, with Gauri feeling the pangs of solitude and showing signs by not eating properly, the officials are on a mission to find her a new companion.

Though there are giraffes in Mysuru zoo, the officials say that it could result in inbreeding if brought here. To avoid inbreeding and support healthy development, officials are actively searching for a suitable giraffe from other zoos in the country.



Gauri arrived Bannerghatta zoo around two years ago and was given a grand welcome with a cake-cutting ceremony

Once found, they plan to seek permission from the wildlife board. Gauri, a Rothschild's giraffe (these breeds are usually found in Africa and America), requires a suitable partner to avoid inbreeding. The zoo officials have set their sights on giraffes from other zoos, with a potential match from Alipur Zoo in West Bengal. Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, during his visit to Bannerghatta, expressed support for bringing in another giraffe. Gauri is now seven years old, so finding the right partner becomes crucial for breeding and the overall well-being of this majestic creature.

Giraffes typically live up to 26 years in the forest. Gauri, who was brought to Bannerghatta at two years old, is now seven.

Finding the right partner is not just about companionship but holds the promise of breeding and contributing to the giraffe population.

Get insured to go on safari

The forest department has made the decision to introduce insurance for travelers participating in the Bandipur safari. Naveen Kumar, ACF, Gundlupet, said, "We have observed a growing trend of tourists opting for safaris in Bandipur. Hence, we have decided to provide insurance coverage, demonstrating our social responsibility." An estimated 1.5 lakh people visit Bandipur annually, with the safari being the major attraction. Instances have occurred where elephants chased away tourist vehicles. Due to the potential encounters with wild animals, the forest department has opted to offer insurance. The forest department has entered into a partnership with an insurance company and paid a premium of Rs 94,900 on September 23. As per the agreement, in the event of any casualty, the deceased may receive up to Rs 1 crore in insurance.

Knock, knock joke turns ugly

A man took to social media to claim that three men living in the PG where he lives, launched a severe attack against his friend and him. The incident took place on October 5 at around 11 pm in Mahadevapura station limits.

The victim claimed the men would repeatedly knock on the door of their room and then run off. "When my friend went to ask them why he knocked on the door, they got violent," said the victim. The men are said to have hit the two persons.

Later, they were taken to the hospital by locals, after which the victim filed a complaint at Mahadevapura police station. However, the victim alleged that the accused had not been booked under appropriate charges and were freed.

"We have examined the matter. There was an error of judgment in invoking appropriate sections of law which has been rectified. The accused are arrested for attempt to murder charge and sent to judicial custody. No high-handedness by anybody will be tolerated," said DCP Whitefield.

3-yr-old run over by bus

A 3-year-old boy was killed after a BMTC bus ran over him after knocking down the two-wheeler he was travelling on along with his mother.

According to the police, the incident happened below the Electronic City flyover under Hulimavu traffic police station limits.

"The bus turned left and hit a two-wheeler on which the mother and baby were travelling. As they fell, the bus ran over the baby," said the police.

Blast toll up to 14; police to review safety norms at cracker shops, godowns

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Following Saturday's ghastly cracker shop blast, police have now decided to review safety norms at cracker shops. Inspecting the spot of the accident on Sunday, Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG & IGP) Alok Mohan said, "We will review cracker shops and storehouses of explosives, including Bengaluru, and come up with an action plan. If there are any violations, we will take action. Around 35 people were working at this ill-fated shop, of which 14 could not come out and were charred to death."

He said that so far two people have been arrested, including the owner and son of the shop, who were the licence holders and three are yet to be arrested. "There were many cracker shops around but luckily, the fire didn't spread to the others. Thanks to the fire department for playing its part in curbing the fire.

The investigation and forensic team will ascertain the real reason behind the blast. We will also inquire who was responsible for dereliction of duty. It is said that crackers worth Rs 5 crore were burnt in the fire," he said. The toll reached 14 on Sunday following the death of two more people, police sources said.

Superintendent of Police (Bengaluru Rural) Mallikarjun Baladandi said, "As many as 14 bodies were recovered, and we have informed relatives. So far, four people could be identified based on the identification of the other bodies."

Many of the relatives of the deceased had come to identify their loved ones. The relatives said that most of the deceased were youths who had come to work in the cracker shop for Rs 500 to Rs 600 per day. A relative said, "Two people, who had escaped the fire mishap, called up the relatives of the other deceased and informed them. Most of the deceased are either neighbours or relatives from Kallakurichi district in Tamil Nadu and had come to Attibele a fortnight ago."

Police personnel stand as an excavator clears the charred remains of a burnt vehicle and a firecracker warehouse in Attibele on Sunday

It was a sad state at the mortuary when the relatives had poured in to have a last sight of the dead. Many were inconsolable and shocked that many deceased had actually made video calls to their home in the morning but had died by late afternoon.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday ordered the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to investigate the fire accident. The Chief Minister said that there was negligence on the part of the shop owner who is now in police custody. "We don't know what exactly happened; however, we found out that there were no safety measures in the shop.

The licence was renewed recently. No fire extinguisher was found in the shop. It is total negligence of the shop owner. So I am giving the investigation into the incident to CID," Siddaramaiah said.

One kilometre too far

Despite National Highway proximity, Medahalli residents face daunting walks post-BMTC rides

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Residents of Medahalli near KR Puram who rely on Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses for their daily commute are facing significant challenges. Despite the proximity of Medahalli to the National Highway, residents must walk over a kilometre after alighting from BMTC buses. A bus shelter constructed by the National Highways Authority of India on the service road often goes unused, as most BMTC buses pass it without stopping for reasons known only to the BMTC drivers and conductors. Frustrated residents have engaged in disputes with BMTC bus staff who opt for the flyover route instead of the service road when heading towards Hoskote and Budigere.

Nagarathna M V, a homemaker, said, "I've quarrelled with the BMTC bus conductor thrice for not stopping the bus at the bus shelter on the service road. It is very difficult for me to walk more than one km from the bus stop after the flyover as I am a diabetic. I need to go to KR Puram thrice a week to buy vegetables and also visit the Government Hospital for treatment."

Kiran Kumar J, who works at a private company at KR Puram, has said that he has to walk more than one km from the bus stop after the flyover. "The BMTC bus drivers and conductors prefer crossing the flyover to proceed towards Budigere and Hoskote instead of passing through the service road. We can alight from the BMTC bus at the bus stop on the service road if the BMTC bus passes through the service road, which will be convenient for us," said Kiran Kumar.

Kumar has said that he has complained to the BMTC Depot Managers about BMTC bus drivers and conductors avoiding the service road, thus causing a lot of inconvenience to the BMTC commuters who want to alight at the bus stop on the service road. "I have seen many women carrying vegetable bags on their heads and walking towards Medahalli after alighting from the BMTC buses more than one km from the service road. This issue was discussed during the ward committee meetings, but it is not fixed to date," he said.

Residents voice concerns over BMTC buses skipping service road stops, making them walk over a kilometre after alighting; The condition of a bus shelter constructed by National Highway Authority of India

> **"I've quarrelled with the BMTC bus conductors for not stopping at the bus shelter on service road** – Nagarathna MV, Commuter

Kishore Kumar J, a resident of Medahalli who has to commute on a BMTC bus to reach his workplace on Richmond Road, has said that the authorities concerned have failed to restore the footpath along the service road. "There is no other option than walking on the road as the footpath is not pedestrian friendly. I want the authorities to ensure all the BMTC buses stop at the designated bus shelter on the service road," said Kishore Kumar. Meanwhile, Basavanapura Ward Committee Nodal Officer Keshav Patil has said the residents have raised the issue of non-stopping BMTC buses at the designated bus stop on the service road during the ward committee meeting. "I can't decide on the footpath and bus shelter because the road comes under the National Highways Authority of India's jurisdiction.

I will write a letter to the National Highways Authority of India authorities on the pathetic condition of the footpath and the bus shelter. I will also write a letter to the BMTC authorities to advise or direct the BMTC bus drivers and conductors to stop the buses at the designated bus shelter on the service road," said Keshav Patil.

Tunnel Road: What experts say

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region (BMR) by the year 2030. While the vehicle km travelled in BMR is expected to be 46.41 million km per day under the business-as-usual scenario by 2030, it is expected to go up to 48.34 million km per day if the tunnel road is created.

"We have conducted the simulation assuming the length of the tunnel road to be 92.2 km. Given the recent announcement by the government, the 190-km project will lead to much higher emission of pollutants," added professor Varma.

The deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar announced on Thursday that tender for the mega project will be invited within 45 days. Eight short-listed consultancy firms have now been asked to prepare a detailed feasibility report and concept plan detailing solutions to Bengaluru's traffic woes.

However, ecologists and sustainability experts have yet again raised concerns saying the project will not only further urbanisation-linked environment degradation but will also not solve the city's traffic woes.

"The proposal is a presumption that road infrastructure is the solution to traffic issues. The project is only going to increase vehicle ownership and more miles travelled by personal vehicles. Increased private vehicle ownership will consume all the space in no time and increase emission multifold. On the one hand, the government is planning to introduce congestion charging to discourage people from using personal vehicles, on the other hand, it is creating a tunnel road which will encourage people to buy private vehicles. Both the proposals are contradictory," said professor Verma.

Experts further highlighted the need for alternative analysis of traffic issues, an important and necessary step in transport planning that is being bypassed by every government — 'there should be a thorough alternative analysis to understand the most cost-effective, environment-friendly, and sustainable solutions before jumping in with tender or a detailed project report (DPR). The basic goal of transportation is to move people and goods, and to maximise this capacity through the infrastructure being put in place'.

The apex court, while referring to Bengaluru floods of 2022, had urged legislature and policy experts to ensure that an EIA study is carried out before giving green signal to development projects in Indian cities.

"Apart from the SC highlighting it, the Ministry of Environment has made EIA mandatory for road infrastructure projects and other projects such as mining, thermal power plants, river valley, infrastructure (highway, ports, harbours, and airports), and industries. The tunnel road project will increase consumption of fossil fuels leading to much higher tailpipe emissions and polluted air," said a city-based environmentalist.

"While EIA should have been carried out before zeroing in on the project, it is time for Bengaluru to comprehend its urban carrying capacity. The city has long ago crossed the threshold of urbanisation. With just 3% green cover and over 85% of paved and concretised surface, the city is rapidly becoming unlivable. While it is time to space out development activities and let Bengaluru breathe, the government's firm stand on the tunnel road project is unfortunate. We are already facing water scarcity and are swamped with vector-borne diseases due to the increase in temperature. This project will further aggravate these issues," Dr TV Ramachandra, Centre of Ecological Sciences, IISc told BM.

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Pavement issue

Vasanthnagar

On Dr MH Ambarish Road, Ward 93, Vasanthnagar, cobblestones near Red Cross appear uprooted on the footpath. Urgent attention required.

Cable trouble

Trinity Circle

Telecom cables hang carelessly on Old Madras Road near Trinity Circle, opposite BSNL/Canara Bank, posing a danger to pedestrians.

Piling leaves

Yelahanka

Despite numerous requests to BBMP, dry leaves remain uncleared in SFS 208, Yelahanka New Town.

Tracking Suburban Rail – Of delays and axe brigades

Stationed for delays

Bengaluru's Suburban Rail project faces delays as Railway Board rejects MD appointment

A file photo of K-RIDE along with contractor L&T commencing preliminary work for the city's ambitious Bengaluru suburban rail project near Nagawara in Bengaluru

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In a significant setback for Bengaluru's Suburban Rail Project, there are indications that it may face further delays. The Railway Board has declined the request from Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE) to appoint a full-time Managing Director to oversee the project and ensure it adheres to the deadlines approved by the Centre.

The post of Managing Director at K-RIDE has remained vacant for over a year, and the current MD-in-charge assumed the position a few months ago. Despite K-RIDE's recent efforts to seek applications for the MD position, the Ministry of Railways has rejected their proposal. This development raises concerns about the project's progress and its ability to meet crucial deadlines.

Earlier, the Board had requested K-RIDE to get the vacancy notice published for the post of Managing Director. Following this, K-RIDE invited applications for the position of MD as well as other personnel in engineering, electrical, and civil departments on September 18. However, the Board has now asked K-RIDE to withdraw the notification and re-advertise the vacancy. As per the Board, the eligibility criteria published in the K-RIDE notice differed from those issued by the Railway Board in 2017.

According to K-RIDE, the notification was issued after a detailed consultation with the state government to widen the eligibility conditions so more candidates could apply for the post.

> **The project has constraints such as land availability, loan tie-ups, etc, which need resolution, and K-RIDE is working on resolving these issues**
>
> – An official

"The idea behind deviating from the Board's eligibility criteria was to widen the conditions so more people could apply. This was done after consulting the state government as a selection committee does the final selection with equal representation from both the Ministry of Railway and the state government. Unfortunately, the notification has been declined, and a suitable decision in this regard will be taken soon," said a senior official at K-RIDE.

Activists have also underlined the importance of a dedicated head of a department to ensure the timely implementation of the project. Experts have suggested that the company should be quickly strengthened with a full-time MD instead of an officer with additional charge as the MD.

However, higher officials at K-RIDE say the slow pace of the project cannot be attributed to the absence of a full-time MD.

"Citizens should be concerned about the pace of the project. Unfortunately, the issue of the full-time MD post is being used by many for their vested interests. The project has constraints such as land availability, loan tie-ups, etc, which need resolution, and K-RIDE is working on resolving these issues. We are shortly signing a loan document with a German development bank, which will enable us to go ahead and accelerate the work pace. There are many constraints, but the absence of a full-time MD is not one of them," said the official.

Public mobility activists beg to differ. They say the work on the Byappanahalli to Chikkabanavara corridor (the only corridor out of four sanctioned that has seen the light of day so far) has been moving at a snail's pace, and the project overall is falling behind the schedule drastically. The onus is on the state government to appoint a full-time MD to accelerate the pace.

"An MD in any organisation carries much weight and gives directions. We are mid-way through the sanctioned period, and as per our perception, while on-ground work on three out of four corridors is zero, hardly around 10% of work has happened on the Byappanahalli to Chikkabanavara corridor. This pace by an organisation such as L&T does not give confidence in the project's timely completion. If we extrapolate this timeline, K-RIDE will take another 90 months to complete this corridor. But an organisation without a head is bound to slow down," said Raj Kumar Dugar, a public transport activist and founder of Citizen for Citizen.

Mobility in city by felling trees

K-Ride's ambitious plans raise questions about project's impact on city's green cover

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As Bengaluru battles its infamous traffic congestion, experts have hailed the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) as a potential solution. However, this solution comes at a substantial environmental cost, with plans to remove a staggering 2,138 trees along Corridor 4 of the BSRP.

According to K-Ride, the project's implementing agency, the construction of Corridor 4 necessitates the removal of 2,138 trees, with an additional 226 trees already felled by South Western Railway Authorities for routine maintenance. This development has raised significant concerns about the project's environmental impact.

> **The city's green cover is set to bear the brunt of this endeavour, as one corridor alone will account for 62.67 per cent of the total trees lost in Bengaluru last year**

The city's green cover is set to bear the brunt of this endeavour, as one corridor alone will account for 62.67 per cent of the total trees lost in Bengaluru last year. Reports indicate that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) granted permission to remove 3,411 trees for various civil works in 2022.

To address these concerns, the Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forest, BBMP, has issued a public notice inviting suggestions, comments, and objections from the public. The notice specifies that these 2,138 trees stand within an estimated 36-kilometre stretch between Ambedkarnagar and Muddanhalli Cross, encompassing areas such as Ambedkar Nagar, Channasandra, and Muddanahalli Cross. K-RIDE has proposed the removal of all these trees, and objections specific to the project can be submitted by October 26.

BSRP is being funded by a 20 per cent share of Equity by Govt. of India (2,479 cr), a 20 per cent share of Equity by Govt. of Karnataka (2,479 cr) and 60 per cent through bilateral funding (7,438 cr). Additionally, Sub-ordinate Debt for CGST and Basic custom duty by Govt. of India of 763 Cr, and Sub-ordinate Debt for SGST, land, IDC and R&R by Govt. of Karnataka of 2608 Cr. In the Karnataka budget FY 2023-2024, 1000 crores have been allocated for the Government of Karnataka and 1350 cr from the Ministry of Railways.

For the bilateral funding, the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Govt of India has posed a BSRP fund requirement of 7438 Cr (800 million euro) to bilateral funding agencies, i.e., KfW, Germany (500 million euro) and European Investment bank (EIB), Luxembourg (300 million euro). Initial appraisal Mission completed with KfW & EIB on 15.10.2022 and 27.01.2023, respectively. The loan process has been completed, and the signing of the loan agreement with the funding agency is planned for December 23. As per the sanction, the project must be completed within 6 years.

While environmentalists agree with the project's significance, they question whether an Environmental and Social Impact study was conducted. "Before submitting to the TEC, agencies must ensure that an Environment and Social Impact study has been conducted for the project. According to an RTI filed a few months ago, the study was incomplete," said Devareya Dutta, trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust. Activists urge all measures needed to conserve trees must be taken before axing.

The project will remove a staggering 2,138 trees along Corridor 4

BMRCL green signal to sections on Purple line

KR Puram to Baiyappanahalli; beyond Kengeri to Challaghatta functional from today

Benniganahalli metro station between KR Pura and Baiyappanahalli and terminal station at Challaghatta will be functional from Monday

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Services to start at 5 am from all terminal stations. Services in these 2 stretches were long-pending demand of commuters who ran several online campaigns

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has announced that the passenger services on the two sections between Krishnarajapura to Baiyappanahalli, of a distance of 2.10 km with one station in between at Benniganahalli, and the other beyond Kengeri to Challaghatta, of a distance of 2.05 km, will commence from Monday.

With the opening of these two vital sections, the complete East – West corridor, the Purple Line from Whitefield (Kadugodi) to Challaghatta will be complete with a total length of 43.49 km and 37 metro stations.

The operational network of BMRCL will increase from 69.66 km to 73.81 km with 66 metro stations.

"Commuters may kindly note that the operational headway on East-West corridor will be as follows: Whitefield (Kadugodi) to Patandur Agrahara -10 minutes. Patandur Agrahara to Mysore Road - 5 minutes. Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Station - Majestic to MG Road - 3 mins during morning peak hours. Mysore Road to Challaghatta - 10 minutes," BMRCL said in a statement on Monday.

The last train from Whitefield (Kadugodi) is to depart at 10:45 pm and from the rest of the terminal stations at 11:05 pm. Revenue services will start at 5.00 am from all the terminal Stations.

Meanwhile Bangalore Central MP PC Mohan took to X to share the news that the operations would begin without any formal inauguration.

According to him, this decision was taken based on an instruction from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

To ease ORR traffic: Staggered timings planned

The Karnataka Labour Ministry has held a meeting with various stakeholders in order to assess if staggered working hours among various industries could be considered as a possibility. The meeting has come soon after a recent suggestion made by the Karnataka High Court to reconsider school timings and working hours. The Department of School Education and Literacy is also likely to hold a meeting on October 9 with stakeholders from both private and government schools, along with parent associations and bus operators' unions to figure out a revision to the existing timings.

The recently held meeting was chaired by Labour Commissioner HN Gopalakrishna and discussed the possibility of staggered timings for industries, and commercial establishments among other businesses. Officials from the department have noted that information from all the stakeholders has been gathered and a suitable proposal is being churned out to reduce traffic congestion.

A division bench consisting of Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice Krishna S Dixit had suggested that the government look into changing commercial working hours as well as school timings to help reduce the number of vehicles on the road, decreasing traffic congestion. The suggestion was made last month while the bench was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Samarpana Trust in 2020 which sought the implementation of the Supreme Court directive from 2014 to reduce congestion. "In a similar vein, the secretary of Industries and Labour may organise meetings with representatives of associations of industries, factories, and similar units, industrial organisations, and chambers of commerce, to discuss the possibility of revising the working hours of these industrial units, factories, businesses, etc. Stakeholders may also propose solutions such as flexible working hours or other measures to ease traffic and reduce the burden of vehicles on the roads during peak hours," the bench had said.

Outer Ring Road Companies Association, Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association, Peenya Industries Association, Confederation of Indian Industry, National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), among other trade unions attended the meeting. **-BMB**

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

'K' magic

For some filmmakers, the letter 'K' spells luck, and according to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, the same magic extends to leaders in Bengaluru. At the launch of former CM SM Krishna's book in the city, Shivakumar said, "I always say that three people with the letter 'K' transformed Bengaluru. Firstly, it was Kempegowda who built Bengaluru. Then it was Kengal Hanumantaiah who constructed Vidhana Soudha, and finally, it was Krishna who elevated Bengaluru onto the global stage."

Changing loyalties

The JDS-BJP alliance has stirred discontent within the JDS ranks, particularly among party candidates who recently suffered defeats to BJP rivals and are hesitant to embrace the alliance. DC Gowrishankar, who lost to Suresh Gowda in Tumakuru rural and had previously threatened to exit over the alliance, appears to have softened his stance. When queried by journalists about his next steps, he expressed a willingness to compromise at any level for the sake of JDS patriarch Deve Gowda. On a different note, former Dasarahalli MLA R Manjunath, while remaining in the party, raised concerns with HD Kumaraswamy about issues faced by his supporters in the constituency, seeking resolution.

Lucky charm?

Is being a Speaker a lucky charm? Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar seems to think so. During a recent event, queries arose about UT Khader from Dakshina Kannada not being appointed as a minister but being chosen as the Speaker. In response, DKS suggested that serving as a Speaker might carry certain favourable trends. He pointed out historical instances where SM Krishna and Jagadish Shettar served as Speakers and later ascended to the position of Chief Minister. While acknowledging the unpredictability of the future, DKS mused on the potential twists of luck in political trajectories.

Reel roles

In a trend where many film stars transition into politics, some politicians also dabble in acting, even if it's just for cameo roles. The latest entrant in this crossover is Athani MLA Laxman Savadi. Interestingly, Savadi portrays

a politician in the upcoming movie "Desai", where he is depicted participating in a wrestling program and honouring the winners. This isn't the first instance of politicians stepping into the world of cinema; former CMs like Ramakrishna Hegde and Siddaramaiah have previously made cameo appearances.

Remembering JH Patel's humorous side

Reflecting on the lighter side of politics, former CM JH Patel, known for his humorous demeanour, was remembered on his birthday. Former CM Basavaraj S Bommai shared an amusing incident from his time as the political secretary to Patel. Recounting the story, Bommai said, "When Patel was CM, three ministers attempted to pressurise him to expedite their work. They even threatened to quit, potentially threatening the government's stability. When these ministers openly made their threats in front of Patel, he calmly asked them to present their resignation papers. Patel went on to suggest that if they hadn't prepared them yet, he was ready to provide official letterheads for them to use. Subsequently, the ministers quietly withdrew their threats."

Back to basics

Former Minister Anand Singh has maintained a low profile since his son's electoral defeat in the recent Assembly polls. When questioned by journalists about his potential departure from the BJP, Singh responded, "I transitioned from being an industrialist to a politician. However, I've now made the decision to step back from active politics. Although I'll remain affiliated with the BJP, I won't be contesting any elections. My focus has shifted back to being an industrialist after my tenure as an MLA." **-Sridhar Vivan**

BOT THERAPY

Can chatbots be therapists? Only if you want them to be

A manager at artificial intelligence firm OpenAI caused consternation recently by writing that she just had "a quite emotional, personal conversation" with her firm's viral chatbot ChatGPT.

"Never tried therapy before but this is probably it?" Lilian Weng posted on X, formerly Twitter, prompting a torrent of negative commentary accusing her of downplaying mental illness.

However, Weng's take on her interaction with ChatGPT may be explained by a version of the placebo effect outlined this week by research in the Nature Machine Intelligence journal.

A team from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Arizona State University asked more than 300 participants to interact with mental health AI programmes and primed them on what to expect.

Some were told the chatbot was empathetic, others that it was manipulative and a third group that it was neutral.

Those who were told they were talking with a caring chatbot were far more likely than the other groups to see their chatbot therapists as trustworthy.

"From this study, we see that to some extent the AI is the AI of the beholder," said report co-author Pat Pataranutaporn.

Buzzy startups have been pushing AI apps offering therapy, companionship and other mental health support for years now -- and it is big business.

"The way that AI is presented to society matters because it changes how AI is experienced. It may be desirable to prime a user to have lower or more negative expectations

But the field remains a lightning rod for controversy.

Like every other sector that AI is threatening to disrupt, critics are concerned that bots will eventually replace human workers rather than complement them.

And with mental health, the concern is that bots are unlikely to do a great job.

"Therapy is for mental well-being and it's hard work," Cher Scarlett, an activist and programmer, wrote in response to Weng's initial post on X.

"Vibing to yourself is fine and all but it's not the same."

Compounding the general fear over AI, some apps in the mental health space have a chequered recent history.

Users of Replika, a popular AI companion that is sometimes marketed as bringing mental health benefits, have long complained that the bot can be sex obsessed and abusive.

Separately, a US nonprofit called Koko ran an experiment in February with 4,000 clients offering counselling using GPT-3, finding that automated responses simply did not work as therapy.

"Simulated empathy feels weird, empty," the firm's co-founder, Rob Morris, wrote on X.

His findings were similar to the MIT/Arizona researchers, who said some participants likened the chatbot experience to "talking to a brick wall".

But Morris was later forced to defend himself after widespread criticism of his experiment, mostly because it was unclear if his clients were aware of their participation.

David Shaw from Basel University, who was not involved in the MIT/Arizona study, told AFP the findings were not surprising.

But he pointed out: "It seems none of the participants were actually told all chatbots bullshit."

That, he said, may be the most accurate primer of all.

Yet the chatbot-as-therapist idea is intertwined with the 1960s roots of the technology. ELIZA, the first chatbot, was developed to simulate a type of psychotherapy.

The MIT/Arizona researchers used ELIZA for half the participants and GPT-3 for the other half. Although the effect was much stronger with GPT-3, users primed for positivity still generally regarded ELIZA as trustworthy. So it is hardly surprising that Weng would be glowing about her interactions with ChatGPT -- she works for the company that makes it.

The MIT/Arizona researchers said society needed to get a grip on the narratives around AI.

"The way that AI is presented to society matters because it changes how AI is experienced," the paper argued. "It may be desirable to prime a user to have lower or more negative expectations." **AFP**

Wearable bracelet to track bipolar mood swings

To help people suffering from bipolar disorder and offer rapid and personalised treatments, researchers have built a wearable bracelet and shared preliminary results of using wearable technology to measure electrical impulses in the skin and other physiological biomarkers which might be associated with mood changes in bipolar disorder.

Bipolar disorder (formerly called manic-depressive illness or manic depression) is a mental illness that causes swings in a person's mood, energy, activity levels, and concentration.

In the study performed by the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology, a group of Barcelona-based psychiatrists, in collaboration with data scientists in Edinburgh, have used a research-grade wearable device to continuously collect several 'physiological biomarkers' during the diverse phases and episodes of bipolar disorder.

Among the collected physiological biomarkers is electrodermal activity which uses changes in the skin's electrical conductivity to indicate the level of stress through the reactivity of the nervous system -- a potential immediate indicator of whether someone is in a manic, depressive or in a normal mood state.

The researchers recruited 38

patients with bipolar disorder and 19 healthy controls.

"We found that bipolar disorder patients in their depressed phase had on average a significantly lower skin electrical activity than the rest of the bipolar group or the healthy control group. We also found that as an individual moved from manic to depressive state (or vice versa), this was detectable by a change in skin surface electrical activity," said researcher Diego Hidalgo-Mazzei.

"This can help with a prompt diagnosis and early personalised treatment, but it can also help in preventing adverse outcomes, for example in alerting to an increased risk of suicide, or of mood swings which may lead to dangers with activities such as driving. It is also easier to treat patients if we know if they are in a manic phase or a depressed phase," he added. **IANS**

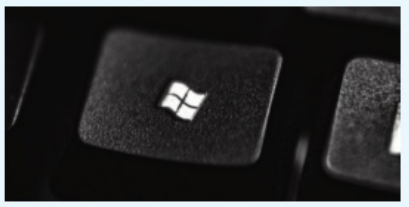
BITS & BYTES

SECRET CODE

Meta-owned WhatsApp is reportedly working on a secret code creation feature, which will allow users to choose a custom password for their protected chat folder. According to WABetaInfo, WhatsApp is creating a new page that will let users create a secret code for their locked chats.

Entering a secret code will allow users to easily find locked chats even in the search bar of the app. Plus, configuring a secret code will let them lock chats even from companion devices. The company suggests using a word or a simple emoji for quick access, the report said. **IANS**

MICROSOFT'S AI CHIP



Tech giant Microsoft is likely to unveil its first chip designed for artificial intelligence (AI) at its annual developers' conference 'Ignite' next month.

According to a report in The Information, citing sources, the move "could help Microsoft lessen its reliance on Nvidia-designed AI chips, which have been in short supply as demand for them has boomed".

According to the report, Microsoft's AI chip, similar to Nvidia GPUs, is designed for data centre servers. Microsoft's data centre servers currently use Nvidia GPUs to power cutting-edge LLMs for cloud customers, including OpenAI and Intuit, as well as for AI features in Microsoft's productivity apps. **IANS**

CLICKBAIT ON X

Elon Musk-owned X Corp has reportedly launched clickbait ads that users cannot block or report, leaving them flummoxed at the new, annoyed way of making money on the platform.

Mashable reported that X users now see "unlabeled ads in their feeds" while scrolling. When users tap on those ads they take them to third-party websites, with no way to block or report them.

"The new ads also don't disclose who the advertiser is or that they are even ads," the report mentioned. "Multiple users have reached out to Mashable to report seeing a new type of ad in their For You feed that they had not previously come across on the platform". **IANS**

RBI policy: What should mutual fund investors do?

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) held its policy rates unchanged in its latest monetary policy review on Friday. The RBI move was in line with the expectations of money market participants and bankers. Should mutual fund investors continue with their investments or tweak their investment strategies?

The RBI continued with its policy stance of 'withdrawing of accommodation' and kept the Repo Rate, the short term rate at which it lends money to banks, at 6.5%. This is the fifth pause by the central bank since it started holding rates in February this year.

The MPC observed that the unprecedented food price shocks are impinging on the evolving trajectory of inflation.

According to money market analysts, even though the inflation and growth scenario is better in India, the central bank would proceed cautiously as the inflation is still higher than its comfort level of 4%. The banking regulator would also watch the global scenario carefully before changing its policy stance, they added.

Strategy mutual fund investors can adopt

First, the RBI policy stance was in the expected line, so it doesn't call for any change in your investment

strategy. Even otherwise, investors should always stick to their goals and allocations. For example, if you have a very short-term goal, you should park the money in a bank deposit or very short -term debt mutual funds like liquid funds, ultra short term funds, etc. Similarly, if you have a slightly longer goal that needs to be met in two or three years, you need to invest in short duration funds, corporate bond funds, banking & PSU funds, etc.

So, how exactly can you use this information? The continuing policy stance of holding rates or pause means the interest rates are likely to stay firm. That means you should stick to short-term debt funds as they fare better in a hard interest rate environment. The long-term debt funds suffer the most when the interest rates are high. This is because bond yields and prices move in the opposite direction.

In short, you can continue with your investment strategy if you have a proper investment and allocation plan. This is the time to stick to short-term debt funds. Mutual fund advisors are recommending dynamic bond funds, corporate bond funds, and banking & PSU funds to investors to take care of their goals that are away by three years or more. This is not the time to be adventurous and chase returns. If you are planning to allocate money to long-term debt funds and gilt funds benefit from from a fall in interest rates,proceed with caution. It is still not clear when the RBI will start cutting interest rates. So, you may have to wait longer for the double-digit returns.

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Given up on active large cap schemes?

SIPs in these 5 schemes offered over 15% in five years

Large cap schemes are back in the game as most managed to beat their benchmarks in 2023

Most conservative investors who invest in large cap schemes have almost given up on them as these schemes have been struggling to beat their benchmarks in the last few years. However, these schemes are back in the game after most of them managed to beat their benchmarks in 2023.

Let data do the talking

There were around 52 passively-managed schemes in the large cap category. However, only four passively-managed large cap schemes managed to outperform their respective benchmarks in 2023. This clearly shows that these schemes failed to closely follow the indices they were supposed to track.

Active large caps stage a come back

There were 30 schemes in the actively-managed large cap mutual fund category. Around 24 actively-managed large cap schemes managed to outperform their respective benchmarks in 2023. Only six schemes underperformed their benchmarks.

Can you count on them?

It is impossible to predict how the active versus passive game is going to play in the coming years. However, the numbers (the recent numbers) clearly shows that these schemes have indeed helped investors to create wealth or to achieve their long term goals.

iStock 5-year SIP returns

ETMutualFunds looked at the SIP returns in the five-year period: Nippon India Large Cap Fund: 21.39%; HDFC Top 100 Fund: 18.54%; ICICI Prudential Bluechip Fund: 18.50%; Edelweiss Large Cap Fund:17.74%; SBI Bluechip Fund: 17.39%; Sure, the recent surge in the market helped them, but they successfully helped investors to make money.

Trailing returns

The active large cap schemes offered 13.79% in the last one year. They offered 20.19% in the last three years, 14.23% in five years, 13.74% in 10 years. The average CAGR returns for the category shows that these schemes clearly managed to offer double digit returns over a long period of time.

Tread carefully

Mutual fund advisors have been asking investors to invest only in a staggered manner through SIP or STP. Don't commit money in a lump sum as the market is hovering around the historical peak. Here are our recommended schemes: Axis Bluechip Fund, Equity Fund, Mirae Asset Large Cap Fund, BNP Paribas Large Cap Fund, Edelweiss Large Cap Fund.

-ET Online

HEALTH TIP: Nighttime is when your skin is most receptive to absorbing the ingredients in skincare products

To keep nails in the clear, keep them moisturised, stop biting them and take a break between manicures

BangaloreMirror 9
Monday, October 9, 2023
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Skin deep

10-step routine to follow at home to get clear skin

Whether you're a skincare newbie or an expert, the 10-step skincare routine is definitely something you must've heard of or even dabbled in. Seven more steps than the basic Cleanse, Tone, Moisturise routine, the 10-step regimen sure sounds intimidating (and time-consuming).

Fear not, we are here to help you nail this Korean skincare trend that will leave you with dewy, hydrated and crystal-clear skin. These 10 steps are all about effectively layering products rather than having one heavy cream or harsh cleanser does all the work.

Let's start by easing your mind off the misconception that you have to follow 10 steps every day to achieve clear skin. It's not about how many products you use, it's about using the right products for your skin type and concerns, and layering them in the right order according to their consistencies.

Whether you choose to do these steps in the morning or at night, one thing is guaranteed, this routine will completely transform your skin for the better. The results will make all the effort totally worth it.

Here's a complete list of all the 10 steps you need to follow to get that flawless clear skin. Don't forget to follow these steps on your neck as well. Let's get started!

Step 1 - Oil Based Cleanser

Start your skincare routine by using an oil-based cleanser that will remove the makeup, sunscreen, excess sebum, pollutants and other oil-based impurities from your skin. It's great for hydration and doesn't dry out or irritate the skin. Massage it gently into your skin in circular motions and wash it off with lukewarm water.

> **These steps of a Korean skincare regime are about effectively layering products rather than having one heavy cream or cleanser do all the work**

Step 2 - Water-Based Cleanser

Yes, there's another cleanser on the list. This time a water-based one. The 10-step skincare routine follows a double-cleanse philosophy which is a much gentler and more thorough approach to getting squeaky clean skin. The water based cleanser dissolves any of the residue makeup leftover as well as the water-based impurities like dirt and sweat.

Step 3 - Exfoliator

Time to tackle the dead skin cells. Use an exfoliator to clean your pores for smoother, softer and visibly brighter skin. You can choose between a physical or chemical exfoliator depending on your skin type and concerns. This is a step that you can do about 2-3 times a week. For sensitive skin, only once a week is recommended. Be careful not to over exfoliate as that can leave your skin irritated and inflamed.

Step 4 - Toner

After going through this thorough cleaning process, it is necessary to reintroduce hydration to the skin. The toner not only hydrates but also brings the pH of your skin back to normal. Think of it as a step to prepare your skin for all the products it needs to absorb next. Use a cotton pad to apply the toner evenly all over your face and neck and gently pat it into your skin with your fingers.

Step 5 - Essence

We're almost halfway through! There's no turning back now. Next up we have the essence. The essence has a similar consistency to that of a toner but offers a heavier dose of hydration. It also has active ingredients just like a serum that helps to soothe the skin as well as help with cell turnover. Use it to get the best of both worlds.

Step 6 - Serum

Packed with a powerhouse of highly concentrated ingredients, serums are great for targeting specific skin concerns like hyperpigmentation, wrinkles, acne, dullness, etc. It's one of the most important treatment steps in the routine. Pick out a serum that is recommended to treat your skin problem and let it work its magic.

Step 7 - Sheet Mask

Easily the most popular product on this list, the sheet mask offers deep hydration and allows your skin to absorb nutrients and moisture from the essence that it's soaked in. This is not an everyday step. You can use a sheet mask 1-2 times a week or on days when your skin is feeling extra dry. Keep it on for 10-15 minutes and then gently pat the essence into your skin. Be careful of keeping it on for too long as it might just start drawing out the moisture from your skin if the sheet mask becomes too dry.

Step 8 - Eye Cream

The skin around the eyes, being so thin is usually the first to start developing wrinkles. Use your ring finger to gently dab on the eye cream on areas where fine lines are most likely to form. It's important to keep your under eyes hydrated to keep the crow's feet, puffiness and dark circles away.

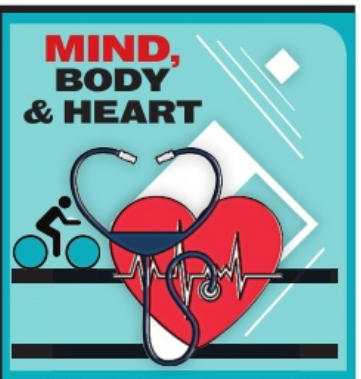
Step 9 - Moisturizer

A moisturizer apart from hydrating the skin also locks in the moisture and reduces transepidermal water loss. Think of it as a protective sheath that prevents the goodness of all the previously used products from escaping. A moisturizer can come in various forms from creams to gels. Pick the one best suited for your skin type and watch it make your skin glow.

Step 10 - SPF/ Night Cream

The last step depends on whether you're following this routine in the morning or before bed. For the daytime, finish up your routine with a generous amount of SPF. It protects your skin from harmful UV rays and pollutants that can lead to premature aging. For the nighttime, you can use a night cream or sleeping mask to help with skin repair and hydration even while you're asleep so that you wake up with plum and smooth skin every day!

by Sakshi Sharma, Femina



All you need to know about...

Running for mental health

Running as good as taking antidepressants

In terms of improving mental health, running for depression or anxiety and taking antidepressants showed similar benefits -- a 16-week course of running over the same period scored higher in terms of physical health improvement, whereas antidepressants led to a slightly worse physical condition, a new study has said.

Patients studied

The study published in the journal Affective Disorders recruited 141 patients with depression or anxiety. They were offered a choice of treatment — SSRI antidepressants for 16 weeks or group-based running therapy for 16 weeks. Forty-five chose antidepressants, with 96 participating in running.

The antidepressant group took the SSRI Escitalopram for 16 weeks. The running group aimed for two to three closely supervised 45-minute group sessions per week (over 16 weeks).

Weight improvement too

At the end of the trial, around 44 per cent in both groups showed an improvement in depression and anxiety, however, the running group also showed improvements in weight, waist circumference, blood pressure, and heart function, whereas the antidepressant group showed a tendency towards a slight deterioration in these metabolic markers.

Comparison of both interventions

"Both interventions helped with the depression to around the same extent. Antidepressants generally had worse impact on body weight, heart rate variability and blood pressure, whereas running therapy led to improved effect on general fitness and heart rate for instance," said Brenda Penninx, professor at Amsterdam University Medical Centres (UMC), Netherlands. **-IANS**

Kakuro

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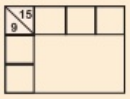
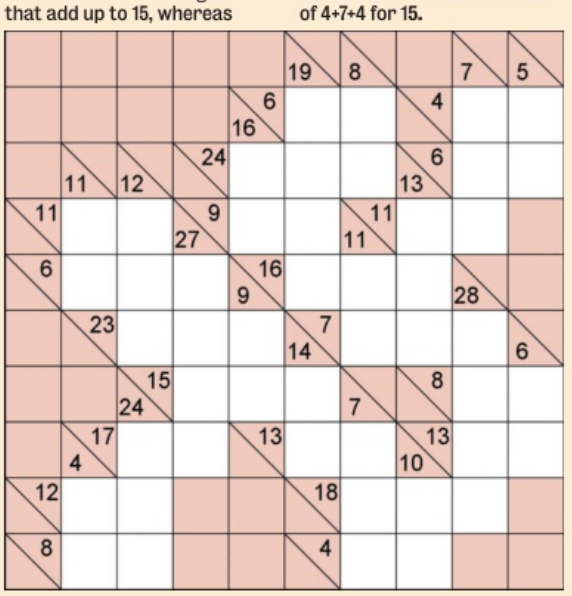


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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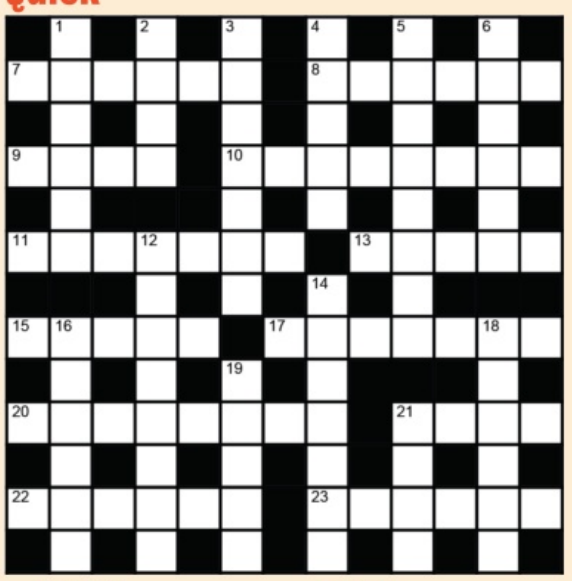


ACROSS

7 Roman philosopher and statesman (6)
8 Estimated (6)
9 Without light (4)
10 Immenseness or vastness (8)
11 ___ __ to the hilt : gives full support? (5,2)
13 Ornament (5)
15 Eyes amorously (5)
17 Favourite musical instrument of the Highlanders (7)
20 Spread of a people from their homeland (8)
21 Very serious (4)
22 Cause to lose feeling (6)
23 Except or otherwise (6)

DOWN

1 South Indian state (6)
2 Yank or pull; pluck (4)
3 Comprises (5,2)
4 Arctic abode (5)
5 Summarised or recapitulated, in a way? (6,2)
6 Harass or annoy (6)
12 Says nothing? (5,3)
14 Jayachamaraja Wodeyar ____ : Last king of Mysore and first Governor of Karnataka (7)
16 Motorless plane (6)
18 Religious leader (6)
19 Burial places (5)
21 Precious metal (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Y EQUALS G

H'E DYDHTAK UHZPBKHTY, IGK H WVT'K PTVL CVL KV ACVL HK.–EHKZC CBWIBXY

Linemaro

Your T shirt smells fresh

Mindchow

Forget the pain of life, mock the pain, reduce it and laugh

Joke of the day

Two eskimos sitting in a kayak were feeling chilly. They lit a fire in it and it sank, proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it too

Loop

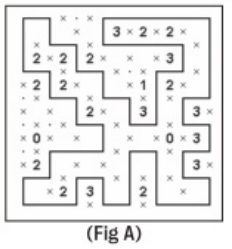
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

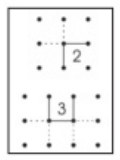
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

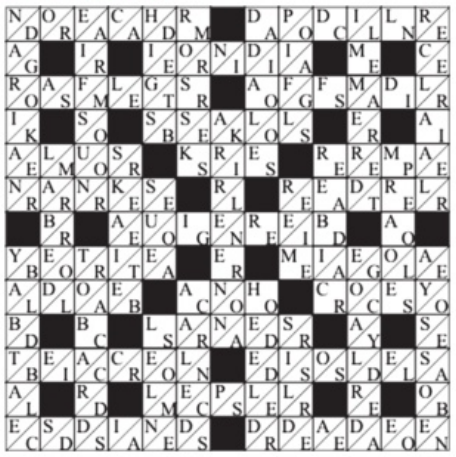


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

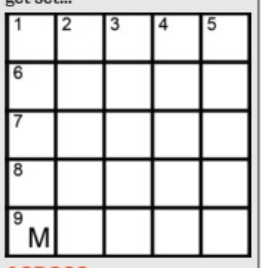
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



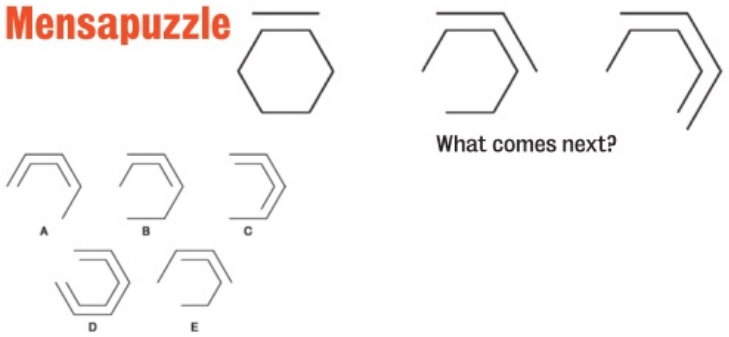
ACROSS

1 As Mam; 6 Lamia; 7 A guru; 8 Licks; 9 Smack

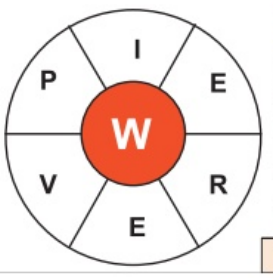
DOWN

1 Sim ma; 2 La Lau; 3 Gamic; 4 U Mack; 5 R asks

Mensapuzzle



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

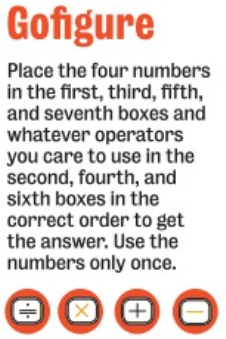
SudokuChallenge

	1		8	6			3	9
					4		7	
6				5		2		1
	8	5						2
4						9	6	
1		8		7				6
	4		5					
7	9			3	6		4	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 15

4 6 8 9

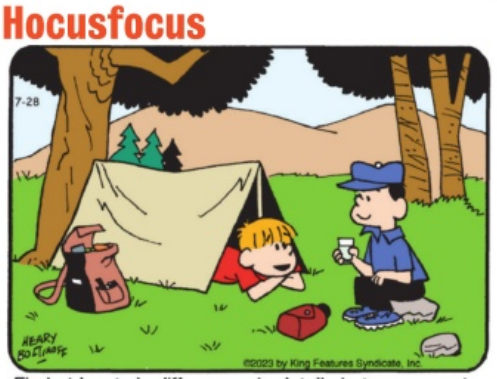
Medium = 13

4 7 7 9

Hard = 7

1 4 8 2

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Canteen is different. 2. Rock is moved. 3. Backpack is larger. 4. Tree is missing. 5. Arm is lower. 6. Tent post is missing.

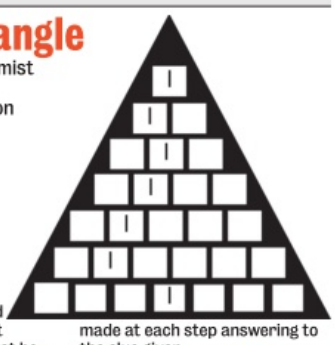
Riddler

Find the pairs of homophones using the descriptions given to you. Example: A large omnivore and to be without covering. The answer is bear and bare.

1. a board on hinges and the speed that a horse moves.
2. being just and money collected to pass.
3. a form of precipitation and to rule.

Alpha triangle

1 Iodine for the chemist
2 Not out
3 Whitney's invention
4 Carry a tune
5 Indications
6 Burns slightly
7 Naval banners



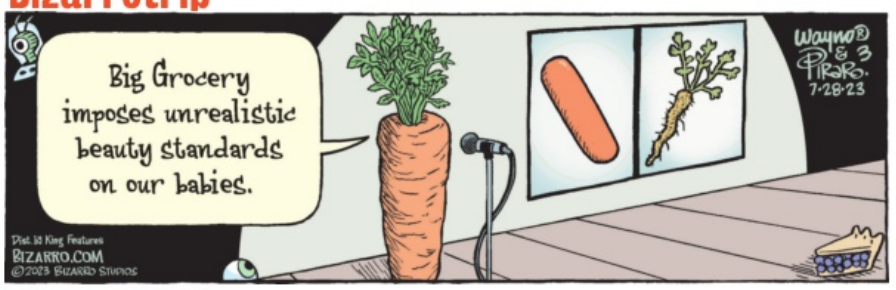
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip


Big Grocery imposes unrealistic beauty standards on our babies.
Wayno & Piraro 7-28-23
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
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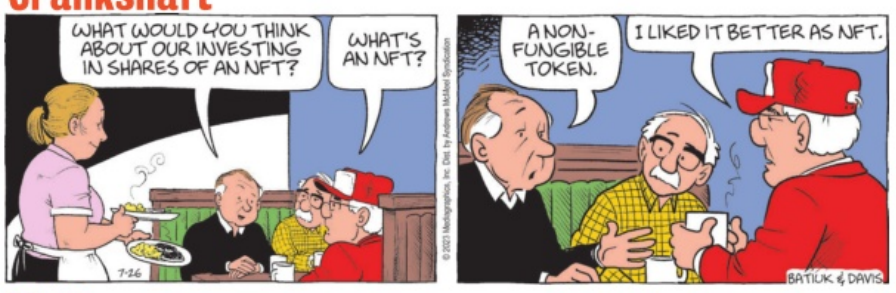
Diamond Lil

I'VE ALSO JOINED THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF DUCK CALLERS!
ARE YOU A GOOD DUCK CALLER?
I EXCEL AT IT!
LET'S HEAR ONE
HEY, DUCK!
©2023 creators.com 7/28
www.creators.com

Hart of the city

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE DANCE?
YES!
DO YOU WANT TO GO WITH ME?
YES!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2023 ANDREA HOWELL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


WHAT WOULD YOU THINK ABOUT OUR INVESTING IN SHARES OF AN NFT?
WHAT'S AN NFT?
A NON-FUNGIBLE TOKEN.
I LIKED IT BETTER AS NFT.
7-26
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

JANE'S GANG
"PIGLET"
I TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD WITH DR. JANE GOODALL PROMOTING HOPE
AND THAT SOMEDAY WE'LL TREAT ALL BEINGS WITH LOVE AND RESPECT.
I HOPE.
7-28
mutts.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, the moon is favourable, so your health may be good today. You may likely visit some religious place with your family or friends. You may plan to donate some amount to any religious place or some charity. Property-related deals may probably be done. You may plan for an overseas travel related to work. You may also plan for higher education.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, the Moon is negative. You may be a victim of conspiracies. You are advised to avoid being involved in controversies; your strong willpower and blessings from elders may protect you from this messy situation. You are advised to avoid making arguments in domestic life. You should also avoid rush driving or any adventure tour.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be busy at work. You may be enthusiastic. That may speed up your project. You can make quick decisions which will increase your business. You may likely start an innovation in partnership. Investments in the fixed assets in the partnership are not advised.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon, you may perform well at work, and you may expect promotions or transfers in terms of gains. You may also plan to change your current job. Your relations with the seniors will be strong. Old health issues will be cured now.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Things may be under control; you will enjoy work, and your focus may be good, reflecting your working style. Your wisdom will help you to go ahead in making difficult decisions in terms of profession. Your past investments may likely give profits.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may have a dull feeling. You may be dissatisfied. You may not enjoy your day. You may be a victim of arrogance. It may affect both your professional and domestic life. You may internally lack confidence, which may stop you from doing something creative at work.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel energetic. You may perform efficiently at work, and your hard work may pay you now, which may boost your confidence. Property-related disputes with the siblings are likely to be resolved now. Your meeting with some influential person may boost your network. Disputes with the partner may also be resolved.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which makes you happy. You are polite with the people around you; you may make difficult business decisions with your family members' help. You are likely to get a big order with the help of your communication skills, which may increase the business.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You may have good internal strength, enjoy at work, and enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may improve domestic harmony. You are likely to make new plans to start some new project; your perfection may help you to implement the plans successfully. Job seekers may find good jobs. Love birds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be disappointed. You are advised to control your arrogance; otherwise, you may face some losses due to your harsh speaking while talking with people around you. Love birds should be careful in making discussions on worthless topics; otherwise, relations may be affected.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, there may be peace in the mind. You may plan to invest some capital in the business, which may increase liquidity in your business. Your earnings may boost your bank balance. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may enhance harmony in the family life. Singles may likely find a good match. Love birds may make the decision to get married.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be very happy; your losses may convert into profits. Your boss may be happy and appreciate your work. You may likely have some changes in your place and position regarding promotions. You are likely to control opponents and hidden enemies. Love birds may make important decisions regarding marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

KIDZONE

Manoj Kumar, 9 Years, Bharathiya Public School

Mary T J, 13 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
[(36-35) / (36+12√/35+36+36-12√/35+35)]=E
1/142=E
√E-1+2iii=√/142+2=√/144=12

BULL'S EYE
ewer, PREVIEW, review, view, viewer, weep, were, wipe, wiper, wire

QUOTE UNCODE
I'm against picketing, but I don't know how to show it. – Mitch Hedberg

FAST FIVE

M	A	M	A	S
I	L	A	M	A
A	U	G	U	R
S	L	I	C	K
M	A	C	K	S

STRIKE OUT

D	R	A	C	H	M	A	D	O	C	I	L	E		
A	R	I	O	N	I	A	M						E	
R	A	M	E	T	S		A	F	F	A	I	R		
S	E	N	E	C	A		G	A	U	G	E	D		
R	A	M		K		L		M		S				
D	A	R	K		E	N	O	R	M	I	T	Y		
	L			S		O		E						
B	A	C	K	S	U	P		A	D	O	R	N		
		E			P		B			U				
O	G	L	E	S		B	A	G	P	I	P	E		
	L		P		T		H			R				
D	I	A	S	P	O	R	A		G	R	I	M		
	D		M		M		O		O		E			
B	M	U	N	L	E	S	S							
R		L		P		E		R		E		O		
E	D	D	I	E	D		R	E	A	D	O	N		

QUICK

K	J	M		I	S		P							
S	E	N	E	C	A		G	A	U	G	E	D		
R		R		K		L		M		S				
D	A	R	K		E	N	O	R	M	I	T	Y		
	L			S		O		E						
B	A	C	K	S	U	P		A	D	O	R	N		
		E			P		B			U				
O	G	L	E	S		B	A	G	P	I	P	E		
	L		P		T		H			R				
D	I	A	S	P	O	R	A		G	R	I	M		
	D		M		M		O		O		E			
B	M	U	N	L	E	S	S							
R		L		P		E		R		E		O		
E	D	D	I	E	D		R	E	A	D	O	N		

MENSA PUZZLE
8: the inner hexagon is being dismantled one side at a time working anti-clockwise, while the outer hexagon is being constructed one side at a time working clockwise

RIDDLER
1. gate and gait.
2. fair and fare.
3. rain and reign.

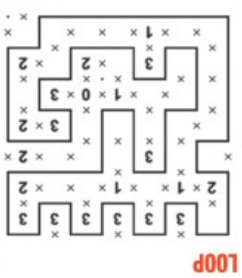
SUDOKU

5	1	7	8	6	2	4	3	9
8	2	9	3	1	4	6	7	5
6	3	4	9	5	7	2	8	1
9	8	5	6	4	3	7	1	2
2	6	3	7	9	1	8	5	4
4	7	1	2	8	5	9	6	3
1	5	8	4	7	9	3	2	6
3	4	6	5	2	8	1	9	7
7	9	2	1	3	6	5	4	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
I, In, Gin, Sing, Signs, Singes, Ensigns.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 9 – 6 + 4 = 15
Medium
4 – 7 + 7 + 9 = 13
Hard
8 / 2 + 4 – 1 = 7

LOOP



KAKURO

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SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Ghost at midnight

Ghost is expected to hit the screen with a fan show at a well-known theater on KG Road at midnight on October 18. Ghost got a UA certificate from the Censor Board a few days ago. Ghost will be the first movie of Dr Shivarajkumar to be screened at midnight.

The film is presented by politician-cum-movie producer Sandesh Nagaraj and bankrolled by Sandesh N under the Sandesh Productions banner. Ghost is expected to be screened at hundreds of screens across Karnataka.

According to reliable sources, Ghost is presented as a duology by director MG Srinivas aka Srini who earned fame for his film Birbal. Ghost has well-known actors such as Anupam Kher and Jayaram. Archana Jois plays a journalist in this movie. Prashanth Narayan, Satyaprakash, Dattatreya aka Dattanna, Abhijith, and Srini are the other actors in this movie. Arjun Janya has scored music while Mahendra Simha has worked behind the camera.

The distribution rights of Ghost's Telugu version has been bought by well-known distributor-cum-producer Dil Raju and Hindi version by Pen Studios which has a plan for releasing the Hindi version at around 600 screens.

Other than Kannada, the movie will be released in Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, and Telugu.

Rooster rules

Here comes a movie that has a story revolving around a cock. The title of the movie is Naa Kolikke Ranga in which Master Anand plays the lead.
It is said to be a romantic comedy that spins around a hero, his mother and a cock in a village. The movie is scheduled for release on November 10. "The movie went on floors before the pandemic. We faced some problems during the lockdown. Now, the movie is ready for release next month. It has a unique song – Mareyodunte Mysuru Doreya - on the Mysore Maharaja and the Dasara festival," said Master Anand.

Master Anand said a major portion of the shooting was held in and around Mandya. "A part of the shooting was done at Kasalagere village. The dialogues are laced with Mysore and Mandya diction. Bhavya plays the hero's mother. It is my luck to have such a senior actress in this movie. Hero Ranga has affection and love for his mother and the cock. Later, unavoidable situations make him have to choose between his mother and the cock," he said, adding that the movie has all elements to entertain the audiences.

Director Mahesh Goravale said this is his debut as a director. "The movie conveys a message on animal sacrifice and superstitions in rural areas," he said.

Ranbir among 30+ celebs in ED radar

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), probing the Mahadev Online Book (MOB) money laundering case, has identified more than 30 Bollywood celebrities, including several top personalities, who had attended the two programmes of the companies promoters in United Arab Emirates (UAE) in September last year and in February this year.

According to ED sources, the agency issued fresh summons to the MOB's promoters, Saurabh Chandrakar and Ravi Uppal, both said to be based in UAE's Dubai, on the day it issued summons to comedian Kapil Sharma, actor Huma Qureshi and Heena Khan for questioning. The ED has also summoned Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor for questioning.

The source said that over 30 celebrities, including from Bollywood, television industry and from south film industry, are likely to be summoned in the coming days by the financial probe agency to record their statement as witnesses in the case. **IANS**

Back from conflict zone

Nushrratt returns from Israel, hassled by paps

Bollywood actress Nushrratt Bharuccha, who was earlier stranded in Israel amidst the escalating tension between Israel and Gaza, has landed in Mumbai safely.

However, the actress looked distressed as she walked out of the Mumbai airport. She was seen wearing crepe coloured track pants and a sweatshirt. As she walked from the arrivals to her car, she was surrounded by the media, the actress visibly distraught, could barely speak given the commotion.

She was almost in tears and repeatedly requested the camera persons to move behind so she could get to her car and go home having been through a testing period of more than 24 hours.

Nushrratt was in Israel to participate in Haifi Film Festival. With the help of the Indian Embassy, she was brought back home. She took a connecting flight. **–IANS**

Her hero

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu has tagged Rhea Chakraborty as her "hero" after the latter spoke about her family's support following actor Sushant Singh Rajput's untimely demise.

Samantha took to her Instagram story, where she shared a video of Rhea's interview, where she was seen talking about the time when she was being probed about the late actor's death. In the clip, she spoke about the strength she received from her family members during the probe in the Sushant Singh Rajput case.

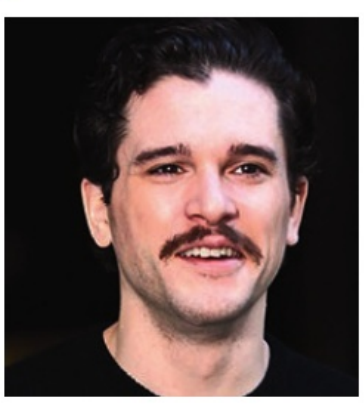
In the video, Rhea spoke about her strength, resilience that came from her family. She added that her father was in the army and guided her on how to take on the situation.

She shared that her mother, father, brother and her friends who stood by her are her pillars of sanity.

Sharing the video, Rhea wrote: "Fauji ki beti (Soldier's daughter)."

Sharing the post on Instagram Stories, Samantha wrote, "Hero @rhea_chakraborty."

Re-sharing it Instagram Stories, Rhea wrote, "Right back at you." Rhea was in a relationship with Sushant when he was found dead on June 14, 2020, in his Bandra flat. **–IANS**



Kit confesses to be being self-obsessed

Kit Harrington, who is known for playing Jon Snow in 'Game of Thrones', feels fortunate to have been surrounded by "truthful" people throughout his career to humble him.

Harrington told Candis magazine: "There are times when I've been an idiot. When I've been wrapped up in myself. But I've always had people around me who've been truthful."

The actor said he's learned from his past mistakes, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

He said: "There's not much I'd change, because the mistakes I've made in the world I've found myself in have made me who I am today. And at the moment, I'm happy with myself."

He also appreciates the support he's received from his parents. The actor explained how his mum encouraged him to pursue his ambitions "in a really intelligent and sensitive way."

He shared: "Their genius in parenting was not to push us into anything but to look at what we were intrinsically drawn by. So I was never pushed into acting, just as my brother was never pushed into what he did.

"For instance, when I was a kid and liked dinosaurs, my mother would buy me everything about dinosaurs.

"So when I got older and drama came along, it was her who guided me, 'Do you want to go to drama school? You want to join the National Youth Theatre, or maybe you want to do this course at RADA?' She was always there, puppeteering my young life, but in a really intelligent and sensitive way. She's a fantastic woman." **–IANS**